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Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation) said that the Committee should discuss ways of optimizing the use of resources and carry out an evaluation of peacekeeping operations from the perspective of the various stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations bodies and the Secretariat. The Organization's reform of peacekeeping operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS) should enhance peacekeeping capacities. However, DFS had yet to fulfil its commitments, and his delegation called for greater transparency and more consultations with Members States, especially with troop-contributing countries and logistics suppliers.

2. The establishment of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) would allow the Organization to evaluate the reform process and identify best practices. Those missions reflected a commitment by Member States to contribute actively to peacekeeping missions. With regard to improvements to peacekeeping operations, his delegation welcomed the draft doctrine on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Principles and Guidelines (Capstone Doctrine) being circulated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). However, the draft contained flaws and required further discussion with the participation of Member States and the Secretariat. The draft doctrine identified the need for improving the military expertise of the Security Council, which could be achieved by revitalizing the Military Staff Committee.

3. In line with the focus of United Nations peacekeeping operations on Africa, the Russian Federation had sent an increasing number of peacekeepers to the region and had trained law-enforcement officers from African countries. The National Advanced Training Institute for Interior Ministry Personnel had organized regular courses for peacekeeping candidates from African countries. In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs sent experts to peacekeeping training centres in Ghana and Italy, and had trained peacekeepers from Serbia and Tajikistan.

4. With regard to staffing concerns, his delegation requested clarification on why Russian candidates for police contingents and the civil components of peacekeeping operations had not received responses to their applications. It was concerned by the lack of transparency in the selection process, which was often carried out without announcing vacancies.

5. With regard to the 2008 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation was concerned by the draft programme of work, which included a break of one week. One way of avoiding that break would be to distribute the draft report in advance so that the regional groups could consolidate their positions before the formal opening of the session.

6. **Mr. del Rosario Ceballos** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group welcomed the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS). However, it noted with concern the slow pace of the reform and requested information on its status.

7. In order to protect the reputation of the Organization and all staff members, the Rio Group fully supported the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation. It welcomed the appointment of Mr. Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Group believed that, following its consideration by Member States, the policy statement and draft strategy (A/60/877) would serve as an effective basis for providing assistance and support to victims. It hoped that General Assembly resolution 61/291 would be implemented in a timely manner in order to strengthen accountability and ensure justice for all parties concerned.

8. The Group emphasized the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as a forum for dialogue and noted the usefulness of its website in providing information and documentation. It hoped that the Committee's reports would continue to be adopted in a timely manner.

9. The Group welcomed the one-year extension of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The countries of the region had reiterated their support for the Mission by contributing the majority of troops and police

personnel and through other forms of cooperation. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, situated in Santo Domingo, had provided assistance to the Mission in the area of disaster management and had also provided an action plan to States and non-governmental organizations on women, peace and security.

10. Even though peacekeeping operations had grown in number and become increasingly complex, it was important to continue with them until their objectives were met. Peacebuilding activities were essential for avoiding the necessity of further operations.

11. With regard to documentation on peacekeeping, the Rio Group reiterated that all documents should reflect the standard terminology in order to avoid misunderstandings. The draft doctrine on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Principles and Guidelines should be finalized through a process of intergovernmental consultation.

12. Given the continuing delays in effecting reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, it was important to address that question. The Group also attached particular importance to training and capacity-building, and urged the Training and Evaluation Service to continue developing national and regional capacities in the field of peacekeeping operations.

13. **Ms. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that peacekeeping operations must observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter and accepted peacekeeping standards, including the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, and impartiality. Peacekeeping operations should show respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention. Given that peacekeeping operations had grown in number and become increasingly complex, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to restructure the Department. However, the responsibilities and mandates of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had not been clearly delineated. It was important that Member States should share in the lessons learned during the reform process.

14. With regard to the draft Capstone Doctrine, the Non-Aligned Movement viewed it as a work in progress whose aim was to provide practical guidelines. The views of Member States should be taken into account in preparing those guidelines and to adhere to established guiding principles. In particular, replacing the concept of the "non-use of force except in self-defence" with "restraint in the use of force" might change one of the core values of peacekeeping operations. The political context and evolving nature of peacekeeping brought to the forefront a multidimensional complexity, as reflected in the missions in the Sudan and in Chad.

15. The Special Committee should remain the only United Nations forum for reviewing peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and in addition it was necessary to engage troop-contributing countries in a more substantial dialogue with the Security Council and the Secretariat. With regard to UNAMID, offers for participation by African countries supported by the host country should be taken into account, and it was important to maintain the African character of the mission. However, the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations, and regional arrangements should function in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

16. As to conduct and disciplinary issues, States members of the Non-Aligned Movement supported a policy of zero tolerance and requested the Secretariat to revise existing memorandums of understanding in order to include the recommendations of the Special Committee made in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Those revisions would prevent dissenting interpretations of the jurisdiction of Member States and the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The policy on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities must be finalized through an inclusive process, and ad hoc arrangements should be avoided. Given that States members of the Non-Aligned Movement provided over 80 per cent of peacekeeping personnel, they remained concerned by the current imbalance of geographical representation, both at Headquarters and in the field, of unrepresented and underrepresented troop-contributing countries. They were also concerned over the staffing and structure of DPKO and DFS and emphasized the need to identify suitable candidates to address the imbalances.

17. **Mr. Lobo de Mesquita** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process

countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, and referring to the unprecedented surge in peacekeeping missions, noted that with the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), the number of peace operations had risen to 20, and the number of peacekeepers was expected to reach 140,000. Clearly, the United Nations was still considered the appropriate forum for addressing international threats to peace and security and its missions were still considered one of its most valuable instruments.

18. The European Union had for years been playing a major role in preserving global peace and security, and regarded its involvement with the United Nations as a cornerstone of its external relations. Its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations was demonstrated by the fact that it contributed over 40 per cent of the United Nations peacekeeping budget and over 13 per cent of troop contingents. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and international organizations on peace and security issues was a key factor, as in the United Nations-European Union cooperation in crisis management and the United Nations-African Union agreement to work jointly on conflict prevention, management and resolution. Through its own African Peace Facility, the European Union had contributed hundreds of millions of euros to support African-led peace operations and to enhance the institutional capacities of the African Union and subregional organizations. Furthermore, the European Community had recently adopted an Instrument for Stability to support activities by the United Nations, the African Union or the European Union in Darfur, Chad, the Central African Republic and Somalia.

19. Peacekeeping operations and their cost stood to benefit from stronger United Nations leadership in conflict prevention. The modern United Nations response to global security threats should be to set up peacekeeping operations hand in hand with peacebuilding assistance, development aid and conflict prevention.

20. The safety and security of United Nations personnel was a paramount concern as missions became more dangerous. Missions ought to be equipped with situation-awareness capabilities, early-warning systems and physical protection for mission compounds. Host Governments must bring to justice those responsible for violent acts against peacekeeping personnel. Mission casualties not the result of violence were also a source of concern. Adequate training of peacekeepers — an area in which the European Union was actively assisting the African Union — was, of course, a key to preventing casualties. More information on the risks in mission areas could be enormously helpful: DPKO should share pre-deployment threat assessments with Member States from the early planning stages of a mission. In addition, States would more readily pledge troops if the Secretariat offered the possibility of making reconnaissance visits beforehand.

21. The cases of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel, especially those involving sexual exploitation and abuse, severely harmed the credibility of the United Nations and increased the suffering of the very people the missions were supposed to protect. The European Union strongly supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. More emphasis should be put on prevention by, for instance, offering recreational activities to peacekeepers and personnel in the field and by implementing the revised draft model memorandum of understanding recently adopted, with its provisions for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse within contingents. Expanding on the Secretary-General's draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel (A/60/877), the Ad Hoc Working Group must produce an effective victim-assistance strategy at its next session.

22. An agreed, updated peacekeeping doctrine would help contributing countries to better educate and train their contingents prior to deployment. The European Union looked forward to the release of the Capstone Doctrine document, and to the development of a full set of related publications.

23. It viewed with some apprehension the recent selectiveness by which certain troop-contributing countries, which had been willing to pledge their contingents to a peace operation, had been excluded. Such an approach undermined the Organization's credibility. Furthermore, it believed that the United Nations was best placed to decide which contingents should be deployed to any given mission, and differing standards as to the strength, training or equipment of

contingents affected a mission's capacity to fulfil its mandate and also made the personnel involved more vulnerable.

24. More information would be appreciated about the progress of the restructuring of the DPKO, which the European Union had wholeheartedly supported from the start, especially regarding the activation of the integrated operational teams, a key tool. Senior staff positions should be filled more expeditiously, unless the delays were actually serving the restructuring process. The proposed security-sector reform and the new rule-of-law competence to be given to the Secretariat seemed promising. Also, the restructuring of the Office of Military Affairs could draw lessons from the experience of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and its strategic military cell.

25. Better communication between the Secretariat and Member States would attract stronger support, especially if information was provided systematically on the implementation of the enhanced rapidly deployable capacities and the integrated mission planning process.

26. **Ms. Graham** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, emphasized the importance of peace operations in supporting fragile nations and helping to restore a level of normality to the lives of the people so badly affected by conflict. The surge in peacekeeping had put an unparalleled strain on the Secretariat and Member States alike. The restructuring of Headquarters capacities by strengthening, realigning and integrating them in keeping with the Peace Operations 2010 priorities would be lengthy but was necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of those operations. Progress on integrated operations teams and the integrated mission planning process was particularly important, and the proposed strengthening of the mediation and conflict-resolution capacity of the Department of Political Affairs was encouraging. Everything must be done to avoid duplication of personnel and functions and to establish an organizational structure able to coordinate all departments involved in field operations. How the United Nations could best provide unified leadership, supported by strategic analysis and planning, was an important matter for discussion.

27. Conflict and post-conflict situations should encompass security, political and economic affairs, development aid and humanitarian assistance. Australia, Canada and New Zealand looked forward to the day when the United Nations system would be able to manage the seamless transition from conflict prevention to peacebuilding. They would also like to see progress on a number of the components of the restructuring. The inability to respond rapidly remained a major impediment to peacekeeping operations, and there should be constructive engagement with all troop-contributing countries in order to advance the policy for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities. Human resources reform, as applied to peacekeeping, would retain expertise, facilitate mobility between Headquarters and the field and between missions, provide requisite training at all levels throughout the careers of civilian field staff, offering equitable conditions to staff working in harshest environments, and in general ensure a rapidly deployable and sustainable civilian peacekeeping capacity.

28. There had been disappointing delays in the recruitment for the Standing Police Capacity and the 2,500 posts should be filled as soon as possible. The establishment of the proposed military staff capacity, another contributor to mission start-up, had also faltered.

29. Reform of the security sector should be undertaken in concert with the host government, and new capacity-building and civilian-oversight mechanisms should be consistently included in integrated-mission mandates.

30. The responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity was crucial and thus the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Adviser was welcome.

31. The development of the draft Capstone Doctrine by the Department had been one of the successes of the past year, providing an important framework for understanding how the Department conducted peace operations. Australia, Canada and New Zealand would help develop documentation that would complement the doctrine.

32. The problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel stained the integrity of the United Nations, especially when such incidents continued to be perpetrated with impunity. Nevertheless, the integration of conduct and discipline provisions into the draft model memorandum of

understanding by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should help ensure accountability, as should the Secretariat's focus on training programmes and recreation initiatives for peacekeeping personnel, as well as the Sixth Committee's concomitant consideration of the question of criminal accountability of United Nations staff members and experts on mission. All Member States were urged to support the adoption by the General Assembly of the proposed victim-assistance strategy, and recent efforts to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping both in the field and at Headquarters deserved encouragement.

33. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat must provide strong leadership, clear and useable doctrine and a high level of coordinated support commensurate with the safe and effective conduct of peace operations.

34. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that internal and international conflicts had increased demand for peacekeeping activities and, consequently, the military role played by the United Nations. The United Nations should allocate more resources to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking and capitalize on public confidence in the United Nations in order to strengthen concepts of dialogue, promote problem-solving through negotiation and disseminate the culture of peace. It should also bring to justice those who caused tension and spread violence. The root causes needed to be addressed and more resources should be directed to development projects, combating poverty and disease and strengthening economic and social development.

35. His Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), under which the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had been established, and reaffirmed that it would cooperate fully with the parties concerned to ensure the success of the operation, to which it had already extended considerable logistical and other support. It also pointed to the importance of full commitment to the terms of reference of the operation, most importantly that it should be entirely African.

36. Efforts must focus on the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur. Peace negotiations with some armed factions were currently being hosted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in Sirt. Some factions had not attended those negotiations, however, and preferred to stand against the international, regional and local desire for peace and an end to the killing, the price of which was being paid by ordinary people, and to benefit materially from the conflict. The United Nations should strongly condemn and punish that behaviour, which obstructed peace efforts.

37. His country was working hard to restore peace and development. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement had ended 20 years of war and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement had entered into force. His Government had entered the current negotiations in Sirt in good faith, announcing a unilateral ceasefire. The previous day, the Arab League had issued recommendations on humanitarian assistance to Darfur, resulting in generous support. The efforts of the African Union and also the League of Arab States and the United Nations in Darfur were appreciated, as was the unique partnership involved in the hybrid operation, which would serve as a model for regional cooperation, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The dual focus of the United Nations and the international family on development and reconstruction, as emphasized in Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), was to be commended.

38. The Capstone Doctrine should remain focused on the technical and practical aspects of peacekeeping operations; involvement in unclear or disputed political issues should be avoided. The expansion and increased complexity of peacekeeping operations should not undermine the reasons behind their historic success, attributable to the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations, which had preserved its reputation, credibility and neutrality. Moreover, the principles expressed in the Charter with regard to sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs should be respected.

39. His delegation considered that the restructuring of DPKO should go beyond effectiveness, transparency and consultation with the States concerned by ensuring respect for their citizens, strict accounting and no tolerance of mismanagement or of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as that involving United Nations forces in the south of the Sudan; it should also ensure the just geographical distribution of posts, reduction of expenditure and the inclusion of a clear exit strategy in mission planning. It was to be hoped that humanitarian non-governmental organizations would abide by a code of conduct ruled out interfering in the internal affairs of States and threatening their unity and stability. In

that context, the international community should condemn the outrageous acts and conduct of the French non-governmental organization involved in the trafficking and forced displacement of children from Darfur.

40. His delegation appreciated the outstanding efforts of the United Nations to achieve global peace and stability, and offered condolences to the families and friends of those soldiers from Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Burundi who had died in the rebel attack in Haskanita. It expressed its unequivocal rejection and condemnation of any hostility against peacekeepers, and its wish for peace for all.

41. **Mr. Taleb** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, over the past 50 years, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) had overcome many challenges and established itself as the principal multilateral entity for the maintenance of international peace and security. It played a vital role in reducing tension and contributing to conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Although peacekeeping operations had become more complex in recent years, they had proven their effectiveness in performing their diverse tasks, from the observance of ceasefire agreements to the colossal challenge posed by territorial administration, and had demonstrated their ability to deal with threats to global peace and security.

42. Peacekeeping operations should be considered as a temporary measure to prevent the deterioration of conflicts, resolve them and establish a sound basis for the transition to peacebuilding. It was necessary to address the underlying reasons for conflicts in a serious manner, as well as to coordinate with the Economic and Social Commissions and donor countries.

43. His country appreciated the sacrifices made by leaders, individuals and operational units throughout the world and, in particular in the Middle East, notably the death of the four international observers with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in August 2006, when Israeli warplanes bombarded the United Nations site at al-Khiyam in an apparently premeditated attack on an observer site. The attack on the Spanish UNIFIL unit in June 2007, resulting in the death of six soldiers, should also be remembered. Tribute was also due to those clearing mines in southern Lebanon and those who had died doing so.

44. His country's relations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) were excellent. Peacekeeping operations in the Middle East were measured in decades and, in the case of UNTSO, had lasted for more than half a century. Peace in the region remained elusive because of Israel's continuing defiance of legitimate international resolutions, its escalation of regional tension, its hostility against its neighbours and its occupation of their territories.

45. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and guidelines of peacekeeping operations, rapid deployment, recruitment and reimbursement of arrears. It also emphasized that peacekeeping operations must abide by their mandates and respect the basic principles of the Charter, which made the consent of host countries a prerequisite for the deployment of peacekeeping operations. There was a need for credible, clear and viable mandates, drafted through a non-selective institutional and legislative framework that did not apply double standards, to maintain the credibility and integrity of the United Nations. Responsibility for financing peacekeeping operations lay with the aggressor, in keeping with the principles expressed in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV).

46. His delegation was prepared to participate in any deliberations on the important issues raised by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. It emphasized the need to strengthen security measures and procedures at United Nations mission offices to protect staff, as well as the need for a genuine partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries with regard to mission planning, preparation and organization. His delegation was confident that the recommendations of the Under-Secretary-General would be given serious in-depth consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

47. **Mr. Berrah** (Algeria) observed that, as the Organization sought to prevent and contain global tensions, it should constantly improve and modernize the capacities, principles and rules of engagement of its peacekeeping missions, whose success depended in large measure on a clear mandate. DPKO was to be commended for its restructuring pursuant to the Peace Operations 2010 agenda, and for its study of ways to make peacekeeping operations more harmonious and efficient. That was a complex task, owing to the constant evolution and complexity of missions,

requiring a flexible approach and concerted efforts by all concerned.

48. Algeria hoped that the draft Capstone Doctrine would soon be completed in consultation with all Member States, especially the troop-contributing countries. As the document was currently drafted, it touched on aspects that fell within the exclusive purview of States. For example, the broad interpretation it gave of the three basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping — consent, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence — and their coupling with new concepts like credibility and national ownership amplified their meaning but also gave them a political character on which not all Member States were in agreement.

49. The broad consultations undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse were encouraging: they would produce a strategy and would also restore some of the confidence in the United Nations — lost because of the reprehensible acts committed by irresponsible members of its mission . All should work together to define the concepts and responsibilities involved, and to ensure adequate assistance to the victims, bearing in mind the parallel investigation being conducted on the criminal responsibility of United Nations staff members and experts on mission, in order to adopt a common approach to the sanctions to be applied against the perpetrators.

50. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba) said that peacekeeping operations had grown to be the single largest item in the budget of the Organization and had also become increasingly multidimensional and complex. Her delegation therefore supported the recent establishment of a Department of Field Support in the hope that it would lead to greater efficiency in peacekeeping operations, in particular with regard to command at both the field and headquarters levels. She reiterated however that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the sole official forum for consideration of the issue of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

51. She stressed the need to address the underlying causes of conflicts and recalled that peacekeeping operations were merely a temporary measure aimed at providing a secure environment for the implementation of a long-term plan for the sustainable economic and social development necessary to prevent a vicious circle of new conflict and new peacekeeping operations. The principles that provided a framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations must be respected and in that context she expressed concern that the draft Capstone Doctrine document did not adequately reflect the principles enshrined in the Charter, including sovereignty, non-intervention, consent of the parties and non-use of force except in self-defence. She underscored that peacekeeping operations should have clear mandates and objectives and adequate resources to ensure success and, while recognizing the useful role that could be played by regional arrangements, said that such arrangements should not supplant the United Nations and must respect the principles contained in Chapter VIII of the Charter.

52. There should be greater consultation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, most of which were developing countries, with a view to giving the troop-contributing countries greater input at all phases of the decision-taking process relating to peacekeeping operations. Recruitment at the field and Headquarters levels should respect the principle of geographic distribution and there should be greater transparency in the appointment of high-level posts, in order to achieve an appropriate balance between the developing and developed countries.

53. Her delegation supported the zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel, and looked forward to a revision of the understanding between troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat during the current session, based on the agreement reached in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on standards of conduct for personnel contributed by Member States. She welcomed efforts aimed at developing a strategy for the protection of the victims of sexual abuse.

54. **Ms. Jahan** (Bangladesh) said that peacekeeping operations had become increasingly multidimensional, involving not only monitoring or enforcing peace but also such responsibilities as protecting civilians, humanitarian assistance, organizing elections, and judicial and security reforms. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding currently overlapped and reinforced each other in establishing a lasting peace.

55. Her delegation's active role in peacekeeping had begun in the 1980s. It had contributed more than 70,000 troops and currently had 10,000 peacekeepers deployed in 12 operations; as many as 81 Bangladeshi peacekeepers had died in carrying out their duty. Bangladesh had already offered to contribute to the joint African Union-United Nations mission in Darfur.

56. She welcomed the institutionalization of peacebuilding and the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Support Office and Peacebuilding Fund and the creation of the Department of Field Support, which she hoped would bring a new dynamism to peacekeeping operations. She expressed concern however that, in spite of providing more than 10 per cent of peacekeepers during the previous 12 years, Bangladesh was underrepresented at Headquarters, especially at the senior level. That issue must be addressed and, stressing that full participation of troop-contributing countries at every stage of peacekeeping decision-taking and planning must be institutionalized, she recalled General Assembly resolution 61/279, which requested the Secretary-General to ensure the proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

57. Lastly, she expressed disappointment that the reputation and accomplishments of peacekeeping operations were sometimes tainted by allegations of abuse and misconduct by the peacekeepers themselves and of corruption in procurement in the field and at Headquarters. Such improprieties must be dealt with firmly and in a spirit of zero tolerance in order to maintain confidence in peacekeeping operations.

58. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that his delegation's participation in peacekeeping missions was the most tangible demonstration of its commitment to multilateralism and the irreplaceable role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of global peace and security. Pakistan had been one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping missions, and the leading contributor since 2003, with more than 10,600 personnel currently deployed. It was also among the top providers of police and military observers and had recently started deploying women in peacekeeping contingents. In keeping with its policy of support for and friendship with Africa, 95 per cent of its peacekeepers were deployed in missions in Africa.

59. The growing demand for United Nations peacekeeping missions testified to the growing confidence of the international community in the Organization. The Organization must however reform peacekeeping in order to adapt to new challenges and ensure continued success through better management of peacekeeping operations. While much had been achieved since the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations in 2001 (the Brahimi Report), much remained to be done. Sustained effort, additional resources and greater political will were needed for the long-term success of peacekeeping. There should be a shared vision of peacekeeping and he cautioned against confusing United Nations peacekeeping missions with other types of operations led by non-United Nations entities, such as peace-enforcement missions, which should be avoided, even if authorized by the Security Council, in order to preserve the neutrality and legitimacy of the Organization.

60. Notwithstanding the changing nature of conflict and the corresponding evolution in peacekeeping, it was unacceptable to stray from the basic principles agreed by Member States: impartiality, consent of the parties and non-use of force except in self-defence. He therefore stressed that the Capstone Doctrine document should be apolitical and focus on operational and practical aspects and avoid contentious issues on which there was no consensus among Member States.

61. Mission planning should include all stages, from peacekeeping through post-conflict peacebuilding, with greater emphasis on conflict prevention, peaceful settlement of disputes and the underlying causes of disputes, in order to ensure a lasting peace. Conflict prevention was much less costly than conflict management; accordingly, since most conflicts occurred in the developing world, greater effort must be made to promote development as a means of preventing conflict.

62. The Security Council had increasingly dealt with intra-State conflicts, with good effect, particularly in Africa, but he stressed that such actions should respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Charter, it should do more to promote lasting solutions to inter-State conflicts that endangered international peace and security, where its record was less impressive. Considerable headway had been made in promoting comprehensive approaches in intra-State conflicts, in particular in the integrated

missions, but greater coherence between peacekeeping and peacebuilding mechanisms, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission, was necessary for more effective conflict prevention and resolution.

63. The developed countries must show greater political will to contribute personnel for mission training, capacity-building should be assigned a higher priority, and there should be a strategic review of the capacity to carry out basic peacekeeping activities. The issue of the safety and security of peacekeepers was of particular interest to troop-contributing countries. Lessons learned and best practices must be systematically applied.

64. The problems associated with the hybrid mission in Darfur exemplified the disconnect between the Security Council's objectives and realities on the ground. He cautioned that political considerations should not be allowed to erode the credibility of the United Nations. He also called for increased operational capacity, particularly enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, and looked forward to an inclusive and transparent discussion of that issue in the working group.

65. Peacekeeping reform should involve all stakeholders, particularly troop-contributing countries, at all stages and at senior levels, both in the field and at Headquarters. He endorsed the view that the Department of Field Support should be headed by a candidate from the developing countries. He expressed concern however that, as predicted by his delegation, the establishment of that Department had affected coherence and control, placing an increased burden on the troop-contributing countries faced with the need to coordinate with two Departments, and he therefore looked forward to the midterm review in June 2008.

66. Cooperation between the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, as well as with regional arrangements, should be strengthened. While full advantage must be taken of the comparative advantages of regional arrangements, the United Nations must retain primary responsibility for international peace and security and the Organization must continue to command and control all United Nations missions, including the new type of mission such as in Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic. There must be no unequal treatment of missions, and hybrid operations should be the exception, not the rule. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should closely examine the issue of hybrid missions as well as the Capstone Doctrine document.

67. While policies were decided at Headquarters, the success of missions depended on the peacekeepers on the ground and he paid tribute to their professionalism and devotion to duty. Recalling that the primary mission of the Organization was the maintenance of international peace and security, he stressed the need to promote that goal through multilateral actions in accordance with the Charter and to eschew unilateral actions that might erode rather than strengthen peace and security.

68. **Mr. Mungkalaton** (Thailand) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco outlining the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the issue of peacekeeping operations, but wished to highlight some important issues of concern to Thailand.

69. While emphasizing the importance of peacekeeping, and of the need for peacekeeping operations to remain a relevant and indispensable mechanism for the United Nations as well as other international organizations in promoting international peace and security, he said that the current surge in demand for peacekeeping activities for the Organization, along with their complexity and the emergence of new tasks for military contingents, required the utmost effort to ensure that they were carried out in accordance with the basic principles of peacekeeping as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

70. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/256 on strengthening of the capacity of the Organization in peacekeeping operations, it was important to evaluate the progress of the realignment process. The decision for realignment required further improvement in order to ensure regularized routine consultations among all major stakeholders, DPKO and DFS. Future peacekeeping reforms should be based on transparency, coherence, coordination and unity of command. Of equal importance, the recruitment of appropriate skilled experts at higher levels in DPKO and DFS should be based on equitable geographical and/or regional distribution. He urged the United Nations to engage constructively with the Member States to address that matter.

71. Thailand welcomed the integrated mission concept, which would cover the current multifaceted aspects of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, such as security, economics, human rights and development. It also considered that increasing the participation of developing countries was a key element.

72. His delegation fully acknowledged the paramount importance of peacekeeping training. The Thai Government had begun training its military and civilian police under a national plan of action on strengthening its African peacekeeping capacity. Up to 1,000 troops had been trained for future United Nations peacekeeping operations, particularly in Africa.

73. He noted the importance of the United Nations and the regional arrangements, and the prominent role that regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), had played in maintaining peace in the world. Those and other encouraging developments had shown that many countries, especially those in Africa, were increasingly willing and able to take over peacekeeping operations within their regions despite a lack of resources.

74. However, the establishment of the complex and unique peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID) demonstrated that regional arrangements needed to be strong and well coordinated, and required close cooperation with the United Nations. He also reiterated the Non-Aligned Movement's long-standing position that the United Nations had the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that its primary role must be maintained in the new generation of peacekeeping operations. Thailand would continue to participate actively in the discussion of regional arrangements for stronger and more effective peacekeeping methods and mechanisms.

75. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that she looked forward to the update on the realignment of the Secretariat, and underlined the importance of appointing the head of DFS as soon as possible. The rising demand for peacekeeping operations, increased the pressure on Member States to provide qualified personnel and trained units, and underscored the need to improve operational planning and management.

76. The United Nations was unable to meet the current daunting peace and security challenges on its own, but Norway stood by its commitments to Africa and the United Nations in that regard. She commended the African Union (AU) for its efforts to develop its peacekeeping capacity, while at the same time taking on very demanding operational responsibilities in Darfur and Somalia. Norway would continue to assist AU in developing the civilian dimension of the African Stand-by Force through its "Training for Peace", a long-standing Norwegian programme for civilian capacity-building in Africa. The most pressing need in relation to the new operations in Africa was the enormous demand for all categories of personnel. If the United Nations standards for finding properly qualified personnel were not maintained, the organization's credibility would be undermined.

77. Norway acknowledged that UNAMID should have a predominantly African character, but at the same time it was essential that non-African nations should also take part, both to reflect the universal mandate of the United Nations and to provide key force enablers. Norway was prepared to contribute to a joint Nordic engineering unit for Darfur, paving the way for the deployment of the main operation. It would also assist in training African police officers for UNAMID.

78. Meeting the expectations of the people of Darfur would be a major challenge for UNAMID. It was important to engage the civilian population in a dialogue on the mission's mandate at an early stage, so as to prevent unrealistic expectations and to foster local ownership. Local ownership, involving both men and women, was a key part of the exit strategy for the operation. Norway welcomed the communications strategy developed for the Darfur peace talks, engaging civilian society, community leaders and Arab groups.

79. Norway had recently hosted a high-level conference on United Nations multidimensional and integrated peace operations. It hoped that the recommendations in the final project report would further the reform agenda and help to ensure a more coherent United Nations response on the ground. Norway supported a strengthening of United Nations relations with and between regional organizations. Old habits and institutional protectionism must be replaced with a transparent and flexible approach.

80. With regard to Afghanistan, she called for an enhanced United Nations role in coordinating efforts on the ground and between capitals.

81. Norway welcomed the willingness of EU to provide a military component to support the United Nations operations in Chad and the Central African

Republic, without which the Organization would be unable to fulfil its own mandate.

82. Given the growing use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, it was all the more important that UNAMID personnel complied with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy. She urged Member States to help finalize a comprehensive strategy to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, and hoped that agreement could be reached by the ad hoc working group in December. An important factor in the zero-tolerance policy was ensuring good working conditions for personnel in the field. Training and awareness-raising must continue, and Member States should ensure that crimes perpetrated by United Nations personnel did not go unpunished. Awareness-raising in relation to gender must also continue.

83. Further training was also needed in the area of intelligence, which was key to the protection of personnel and the implementation of mission mandates. Norway appreciated the progress made so far. Together with the other Nordic countries, it was currently engaged in discussions with DPKO on the development of training programmes for personnel serving in functions where intelligence was a strategic component.

84. Norway looked forward to the final version of the Capstone Doctrine. The time had come for an update of the force-generation process. Norway proposed that an open-ended working group should be established to deal with that issue.

85. In conclusion, she reiterated Norway's strong support of the United Nations and its peacekeeping efforts, and paid tribute to all the personnel who had made the ultimate sacrifice to bring about peace.

86. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Brazil) said that Brazil was proud of its contribution to peacekeeping missions and paid tribute to all those peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the service of peace.

87. Peacekeeping missions must be provided with adequate resources at Headquarters and in the field, and the Security Council must define mandates aimed at meeting the challenges on the ground. The General Assembly and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations likewise had a responsibility to ensure the success of peacekeeping missions. She expressed the hope that the realignment of DPKO and the establishment of DFS would result in a Secretariat that was stronger, more efficient and more responsive to the needs of peacekeeping missions, and underscored the importance of the Special Committee's recommendations. She said that lessons learned must be taken into account but the unique characteristics of each mission must likewise be borne in mind. The principles of consent of the parties, use of force only in self-defence and impartiality must be respected and any major change in the approach to peacekeeping must be decided by Member States.

88. Current peacekeeping missions had increasingly broad mandates that encompassed more than military considerations. They could support development-related activities and work to create an environment suitable for economic growth. Thus, peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be seen as mutually reinforcing.

89. In the context of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Brazil and fellow Latin American countries had specific development-related tasks, such as the quick-impact projects, which provided the population with peace dividends and promoted goodwill. Considerable success had also been achieved in the fight against criminal gangs, but that success must be consolidated with institution-building and economic growth. Long-term stability would require political reconciliation, security and development and she welcomed efforts by MINUSTAH in that regard. In addition to contributing troops, including the Force commander, and police, her Government had several cooperation projects in Haiti and encouraged donor countries to complement the work of MINUSTAH; only a holistic approach would ensure success.

90. **Ms. Shanidze** (Georgia) said that her delegation fully supported the restructuring of DPKO and DFS, since that would contribute to a more effective peacekeeping process. When conducted impartially and professionally, peacekeeping was indeed one of the most dignified activities. Unfortunately the same could not be said of the so-called Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia, Georgia.

91. For 14 years her country had been witnessing the aftermath of an inefficient and ineffective peacekeeping operation. The peacekeepers deployed in the conflict zone were tasked with maintaining the ceasefire and separation of forces, and also were

mandated to create conditions for the secure return of a half million refugees who had been ethnically cleansed from the territory of Abkhazia. During that time the situation had in fact deteriorated. As an example, she cited an incident on the previous day in which a Russian peacekeeping unit had assaulted and detained Georgian officials guarding a youth peace camp in Georgian territory; they had been released only after the intervention of Georgian police.

92. The unprovoked attack was in direct violation of the CIS mandate. The incident was the latest in a series of destabilizing acts by the Russian side aimed at undermining the peace process in Abkhazia. It followed an incident in August 2007 in which a Russian fighter jet had fired an anti-radar missile on Georgian territory as well as a September incident when Georgian police units had come under attack from armed Abkhaz separatist saboteurs, led by former members of the CIS peacekeeping forces. Her delegation strongly condemned those arbitrary acts of adventurism by the Russian CIS peacekeepers, and urged the Russian side to immediately cease reckless acts that raised tension in the region.

93. Georgia had repeatedly stated that the deployment of peacekeeping forces comprising military personnel of the neighbouring country that was providing political, economic and military support to the separatist regime was illogical, cynical and controversial. Deployment of peacekeeping forces should be conducted only when the impartiality of that neighbouring country was absolutely beyond doubt.

94. Regrettably, the peace process aimed at solving the conflict in Abkhazia had resulted in no tangible outcome. The current situation on the ground was deteriorating, as ineffective and biased negotiating and peacekeeping formats directly contributed to creeping annexation of Georgian territory.

95. Acknowledging the discretion of each country to set its own policy on troop formation, she noted a potentially provocative trend in which Russian defence officials were introducing units from Chechnya into peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia, Georgia. Given the history of the conflict, such actions might be designed to plant the seed of mistrust in complex inter-ethnic relations in the region. That mistrust deepened with recognition that the existing format of the peacekeeping operations was no longer adequate to facilitate real reconciliation. With the majority of the population living in Abkhazia having been granted Russian citizenship, it became clear that the peacekeeping force was not an impartial international formation carrying out the responsibilities spelled out in its mandate, but rather a force that worked to artificially alienate the sides from one another. That, in turn, cast doubt on the effectiveness of the peacekeeping process carried out under the aegis of the United Nations.

96. It was her delegation's belief that the United Nations had the capacity to move the peace process into a new phase where true progress would become possible. Effective conflict resolution in Abkhazia required changes in the current peacekeeping format; there was a need to start a fundamentally new international peacekeeping operation.

97. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan firmly supported the United Nations peacekeeping activities and its efforts to reinforce its capacity in that sphere. Her delegation strongly believed that international peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the United Nations remained the most effective tool to prevent and settle crises and to ensure global and regional stability. With the demand for United Nations peacekeeping missions growing each year and becoming increasingly complex, there was clearly an imperative need to further strengthen the authority of the United Nations and to increase the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

98. Kazakhstan fully supported the "Peace Operations 2010" reform agenda and the Secretary-General's efforts aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Secretariat and improving peacekeeping operations. It entirely shared the view that the peacekeeping capacity should be further improved and strictly based on the Charter of the United Nations, and welcomed the draft Capstone Doctrine, which provided guidance on United Nations peacekeeping activities.

99. She noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of participants in the standby-arrangements system, which currently included Kazakhstan. Her delegation also supported the proposed measures for rapid deployment and other field operations.

100. Her delegation supported efforts to develop close partnerships between the United Nations system and the existing regional arrangements and other

intergovernmental organizations. In that context, it hoped the adoption of a coherent concept of such partnerships, with the involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, could facilitate efforts to develop a coordinated partnership system. It was important to establish closer cooperation with regional organizations possessing real capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace, and to set up regional centres to train peacekeepers. In that connection Kazakhstan encouraged DPKO to develop coherent, operational strategies and early integrated-mission planning in close cooperation with other actors within and outside the United Nations system. Kazakhstan also supported proposals to further improve the efficiency of the peacekeeper-training system at the national and regional levels, with standardized training and participation in multinational and multidimensional peacekeeping exercises.

101. She noted with satisfaction the growing understanding of the vital role of women in peacemaking and peacekeeping. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security was a milestone in that regard.

102. Her delegation endorsed the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It hoped the recommendations put forward in those reports and during the general debate on the item would help in improving the efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping.

103. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had been compelled to take the floor several times after statements by Georgia on the question of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia. The Fourth Committee was supposed to discuss fundamental issues of peacekeeping, not private claims and assertions, all the more so since those assertions were absolutely without merit. Simply consulting the text of Security Council resolution 1781 (2007), the latest resolution on the question, was sufficient for an understanding of what was at issue. That resolution clearly indicated the non-implementation by Georgia of the previous agreements. By its actions, Georgia was hindering implementation of the mandate as created by the Security Council and threatened the safety of the peacekeepers; it was doing nothing to implement confidence-building measures. His delegation was convinced that that was the real reason for the lack of progress in the Georgia-Abkhazia settlement. In any case, it was not the fault of the peacekeepers.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.